



Eating Culture: An Anthropological Guide to Food

By Gillian Crowther

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Humans have an appetite for food, and anthropology—as the study of human beings, their culture, and society—has an interest in the role of food. From ingredients and recipes to meals and menus across time and space, *Eating Culture* is a highly engaging overview that illustrates the important role that anthropology and anthropologists have played in understanding food. Organized around the sometimes elusive concept of cuisine and the public discourse—on gastronomy, nutrition, sustainability, and culinary skills—that surrounds it, this practical guide to anthropological method and theory brings order and insight to our changing relationship with food.

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Editorial Review

Review

Eating Culture is a useful classroom tool. It offers an in-depth look at the many facets of preparing and consuming food in a variety of context and does a good job at highlighting what different people consider(ed) edible and the proper ways to consume food in different cultures and historical times. It covers diverse cultural contexts and it avoids a Western-centric focus, giving ample space to different aboriginal, Latin American, Asian, and migrant community food cultures. (*Food, Culture & Society*)

Gillian Crowther's *Eating Culture: An Anthropological Guide to Food* is a great introductory read for students (or anyone) interested in thinking about how and why we "do food" in modern societies. (*Cuizine: The Journal of Canadian Food Cultures*)

It is written in a clear and comprehensible manner for those interested in food studies, not only from an anthropological perspective, but also encompassing the stance of social sciences, and is much more than a mere introduction or textbook. The author reveals personal involvement in the way her own research is incorporated into the text, and the theory is creatively interwoven with an ethnographic approach. (*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*)

Review

At last, a text for teaching the anthropology of food. *Eating Culture* is a wonderful introduction to cultural anthropology through the lens of food. From hunting and gathering to the global supply chain, this book offers an engaging entrée into thinking about food from a variety of cultural perspectives while introducing key concepts in cultural anthropology and food studies. (Rachel E. Black, Boston University)

In anthropology, we study food in order to better understand societies and cultures. *Eating Culture* provides an expansive, thorough, and very readable explanation of how we do that and of what we have so far understood. Using examples from all over the world, Crowther's text relies on both classic ethnographies and a nearly comprehensive survey of recent anthropological research on food. *Eating Culture* will be a welcome addition to undergraduate courses in food and culture. (David I. Beriss, University of New Orleans)

About the Author

Gillian Crowther is Professor of Anthropology at Capilano University in Vancouver, BC.

Users Review

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